

Wednesday 14th November

Chaired By Dominic
Minutes taken by Jess
Agenda:

- Small intro by Dominic
- Report backs from past actions/rolling picket by Danny
- Nick Durie meeting on Labour Party and Atos
- Venues
- Political Updates surrounding Atos (PCS/DPAC news)
- Future events

Suggestions for Picket

- Decision made to have one Glasgow Against Atos banner to identify campaign when on pickets. People agreed it should be simple and effective, with a powerful slogan to describe what the campaign stands for/is fighting against. Sarah suggested 'No cuts to Disability Benefits'.
- David (from Black Triangle) says he can take care of contacting people about making up the banner, if we can raise money for it.
- Agreed that we should stick to the current GAA leaflet design and that there should be enough printed for people, who cannot attend the rolling picket, to leaflet the Atos centre after it. Also need assessment advice sheets.

Nick Durie meeting on Labour Party and Atos

- Anne attended. Nick Durie chaired meeting. Held by Power in the Community. No future actions planned, but feedback that it was a good meeting with a lot of new faces.

Venues

- Avant-garde in the Trongate. Dominic has been in contact, and booked it as provisional room for next meeting at cost of £30. It has disability access and is central. O' Neils in Merchant City suggested as possible future venue which has rooms for free. Dominic to contact venue.

Political Updates

- Discussion surrounding new Atos contracts. Atos contract in tender for DWP occupational therapy/ counselling services.
- Atos subcontracted NHS back to Lanarkshire
- Discussion about DPAC action in Wales which has targetted the PCS due to it's lack of support for people suffering under Atos. Campaign agreed that collective action is the way forward and that GAA would ask the PCS to support our work in Glasgow.

Campaign Work

- David to write up piece surrounding political updates for GAA facebook page and blog. Send to GAA email – glasgowagainstatos2012@gmail.com
- Letters to be written by everyone and sent to newspapers. Then send them to GAA email so they can be put up on GAA blog
- Anne to write-up personal accounts she has heard about people's experiences with Atos and to send to GAA email for blog
- Suggestion to put excerpts of people's personal stories on leaflets. Everyone to take interview notes of any claimants we speak to.
- Suggestion to contact Trade Unions (PCS). John to contact Derek Thompson about the campaign (and to ask for donation for banner materials)
- John to also send article written about Trade Unions and the cuts to GAA email. Possibly put up online.
- People discussed idea about leafleting jobcentres

Future events

Rolling-Picket. Friday 30th November.

- Agreement that we should replicate last month's rolling picket, as it was very effective.
- Can print out advice sheets to hand to people at the end entering the Atos office on Cadogan Street.
- Meet at Cadogan Street at 12.30pm, walk to Co-op Bank, RBS, Commonwealth Games Office, then return to Atos office at 2pm.

DPAC & Black Triangle Day National Day of Action. Monday 3rd December

- National event happening (Freedom of Information). In support it has been decided to do another rolling picket. Take same format as 30th Nov.

Occupation of Commonwealth Office Direct Action. Tuesday 27th November.

- Called by Sean Clerkin of Citizens United Campaign. GAA supporters to attend in support if they can.
- Call for Atos to be withdrawn as a sponsor of the Commonwealth games.
- Practical work: Day for tie-wraps/ leafleting to be organised for next week. Update blog/facebook page. Everyone to be added to e-mail list.

Proposed next meeting: Thursday 13th of December. Venue to be confirmed.

Dominic will phone the people that aren't online to keep them up to date.

Agenda:

- 1. Minutes and Matters Arising of last meeting
- 2. Reports of ATOS actions
- 3. Future actions
- 4. Propaganda
- 5. Meeting with PCS
- 6. Any other business

1. MMA

David's ATOS report uploaded to GAA blog

- campaign should still aim to leaflet outside Jobcentres

2. Reports

ATOS action at Commonwealth Games office

Sean Clerkin action at Commonwealth Games office. Successful event with around 20 people present and journalists from Scotsman, BBC and newswires, which ensured wide coverage of the anti-ATOS action. Was well co-ordinated, no real problems with security or police although expect them to increase their security at the Commonwealth Games office in the event of future protests. Forced press officer to speak to protesters, a nasty piece of work, who said Glasgow 2014 were proud to have ATOS as sponsors.

* Ian to ask Sean Clerkin to let his press contacts know about regular Friday protests and try and get coverage.

Discussed that direct action was an important way to step-up pressure and should be considered in the future.

Glasgow Against ATOS November protest

Agreed that it was the best protest so far, with a good turnout of between 25-30 people from different groups, individuals and new people; worked well with initial gathering at Cadogan Street, the rolling picket and others remaining outside the testing centre throughout. Better propaganda with banners and placards makes a difference.

Report from Jan on the police harassment on the day, with G4S security guards phoning the police supposedly over the plastic toy used as part of her costume. Police clearly saw a chance to harass and disrupt the protest, eventually charging Jan with a breach of the peace. She has received a letter saying a report will not be sent through to the Procurator Fiscal but she has got a formal warning.

- Joey to speak with lawyer about the process of challenging this
- Campaign gives its full support to Jan whatever her decision, but would be good to challenge the police and publish a public statement and letter calling attention to this massive waste of police resources and political targeting, and raising profile of the campaign

Black Triangle National Day of Remembrance for victims of ATOS (3 December)

Wreath laying at the Cenotaph in George Square. A decent turn-out, with Nick Durie the main force behind this event. Good coverage and photographs in the Daily Record.

* There were some new people at this event. David and John to send Joey their contact details so they can be added to the emails and kept informed of the campaign.

3. Future actions

Meeting discussed plans to 'relaunch' in the new year, producing new leaflets and propaganda and making a big effort to get new people, plus everyone who has been involved to a greater or lesser extent, along to the first meeting in January.

- big meeting in January, invite as many people as possible
- need to expand the number of people involved constantly; this needs to be an ongoing aim of the campaign
- most people in the country are still not politically consciously, still need to be mobilised
- everyone should bring new ideas and plans to the campaign meeting
- always need to keep stepping it up a notch and build some momentum

David has done some research and found that ATOS has IT contracts in Glasgow with Cineworld, Premier Inn and Holiday Inn. There is potential here to expand the campaign's actions; for example leafleting outside Cineworld could be an effective way to meet and mobilise new layers of people. To discuss at next meeting and aim to do in the new year.

Jan pointed out that we should be going to other political meetings and demand support from other groups for Glasgow Against ATOS, in terms of both people and donations

Also discussed the need to be upfront with people about asking for money and donations. We need money to keep the campaign going, should ask friends and supporters, and try and do collections on stalls and at the football over Christmas.

GAA anti-ATOS action

Friday 28 December. Assemble at Cadogan Street @ 12.30pm – 2.30pm with rolling picket moving off in between.

(Joey, Connor, Jess, Jan, John, David, Ian and possibly Amelie and Matt should all be available.)

GAA campaign meeting.

Wednesday 16 January. 7.30 – 9.30pm @ Avant Garde pub, 33 King Street, city centre
The room at the back has been booked and costs £30. There is disabled access.

GAA anti-ATOS action:

Friday 25 January. Assemble 12.30 – 2.30pm. Constant presence outside ATOS offices between these times but rolling picket will take place also.

- Joey to produce and print leaflets and to send images out to everyone so they can do print runs as well
- Jan to create Facebook events for the meetings and the actions.

4. Propaganda

John to contact Edinburgh Coalition Against Poverty to ask them if the ATOS advice sheet needs up dating with new information

- could redesign the leaflet and advice sheet with the GAA blog and get a professional print run from Clydeside press.

Joey to contact Mihal about getting more ATOS Kills placards, tie-wraps and sticks. Amelie and Matt can help out producing the tie-wraps and posters in a work session.

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John has been looking into Glasgow Against ATOS stickers

People should contact Ian MacInnes if they want input into a letter he is drafting to MSPs, councillors etc. about ATOS being unfit for the 2014 Games.

5. Meeting with PCS

After last meeting, John was to contact the PCS, the main trade union organising workers inside ATOS and the DWP.

John met with Derek Thomson, a member of the PCS national executive and responsible for the DWP section. Met for two hours – DT was apparently sympathetic, and was making the right noises about the need for workers in trade unions to unite with the unemployed. Proposed setting up a meeting with members/staff and Glasgow Against ATOS members, maybe at the end of January.

Some political discussion around the role of the PCS. John cited his experience with the Claimants Unions in 80s and 90s, organising the unemployed, were trade union members inside the DSS were quite clearly identified as the enemy; thought things were somewhat improved these days. Jan said that in many ways the PCS could be seen as part of the machine; Joey pointed to article in latest issue of *Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism!* about the discussions within Disabled People Against Cuts on whether the PCS was a target for action.

All agreed that Glasgow Against ATOS wouldn't dilute its politics to suit its relationship with the PCS, but at the same time we don't look to exclude anyone and try to build support wherever we can.

- John to keep in contact with Derek Thomson and also ask PCS to make a donation

6. Any other business

Commonwealth Games 2014 is now looking to recruit volunteers. People should look to sign-up, as may come in useful in the future...

David has also got a massive new banner 'Glasgow Against ATOS – no cuts to disability benefits' made – looks great! Still need to raise some more money to pay it off.

Minutes of Glasgow Against ATOS campaign meeting, 16 January 2013

Copies of previous minutes and suggested agenda points distributed

22 people present

Agenda:

1. Minutes and Matters Arising from last meeting (18 December)
2. ATOS developments
3. Reports of ATOS protests and actions
4. Future and upcoming actions
5. Propaganda and publicity
6. Fundraising

1. MMA

Outstanding action points:

John to contact Edinburgh Coalition Against Poverty to see about any updates necessary to ATOS assessment advice sheets

2. ATOS developments

Co-op Group have ditched ATOS as their occupational health provider. From their statement: '...Atos Healthcare have not progressed to the later rounds of that process and our intention is to have a new provider in place when the current contract terminates.'

Meeting agreed that this should be greeted as a victory for anti-Atos campaigners across the country. The campaign congratulates Co-op on its decision and demand other companies follow their lead.

3. Reports of Atos protests and actions

(a)

- Sean Clerkin gave report of action taken by Citizens United Against Public Sector Cuts on 11 January, confronting Nicola Sturgeon at her constituency office on the southside of Glasgow, with 16 people taking part. Successful action, demanding that the Scottish Government ditch Atos as Commonwealth Games sponsor.
- Campaign welcomes such actions but asks that Glasgow Against Atos be notified of such actions so we can participate and publicise. Sean agreed to do this in the future.
- Article on action reported in *Sunday Herald*. Joey to upload this to the Glasgow Against Atos blog.

(b)

- Andy R. gave report of December's Glasgow Against Atos picket on Cadogan Street. Reported on another good protest, with decent presence both at Cadogan Street and on the rolling picket, with megaphone in use and leaflets distributed along the route which took in Buchanan Street, Cineworld and the Commonwealth Games office. There was a much heavier police presence through the protest this time round. When confronted and asked whether anyone was committing a crime, cops unable to reply.

- Public report of the protest on the GAA blog
- Discussion around whether it was worth visiting such places as Cineworld during protests – agreed that it was but need leaflets with clear information about the various ‘targets’ and their links with ATOS to make it more effective
- David is to get a list of all the companies with ATOS contracts from Black Triangle and distribute this to everyone in the campaign

(c)

- There have been a couple of films made speaking about ATOS in Glasgow. One can be found on www.citystrolls.com and the other on the Glasgow Games Monitor website.

(d)

- Point raised that a man from Drumchapel dropped dead outside Atos on Cadogan Street recently, another victim of these death merchants. This has been completely under-reported. The campaign needs to ensure it is making people aware of tragedies like this and making sure that victims are not forgotten. We need to take this up, writing articles, and letting people know, so it does not happen again.

4. Future actions and events

(a)

- Meeting agreed the importance of sharing information between different groups and individuals on upcoming events, protests etc.
- Everyone present left their email addresses. These will be added the GAA email list so people will receive minutes, details of next events and so on. People should feel free to send out information as well
- Everyone also left phone numbers so they can be contacted and create a ‘phone tree’

(c)

- Meeting also agreed that if people have ideas for posters, leafleting and holding local meetings around ATOS, the campaign supports people just going ahead and doing it! We don’t need to go through overly bureaucratic procedures – time is short and we need action!

(d)

- Jan made the important point that while we should target companies like Cineworld and others which have ATOS, we need to remember that the main enemy is the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) and the entire welfare reform regime. We need to get down to Baird Street, to the Jobcentres and to the people directly affected. This who we need to concentrate on speaking to and getting involved.

Joey agreed that we need to go out to the people and work from the bottom up, showing that it is possible to fight back and organise solidarity; to prove the campaign that there is an alternative to despair.

- Frank is to prepare a letter asking trade unions to affiliate to the campaign and make a donation. At the very least they should be helping the campaign with practical and financial support. Also to approach any sympathetic shop stewards he knows.

Upcoming dates

Wednesday 23 January, 12 – 2.30pm

Lobby Glasgow City Council: Stop Learning Disability Day Centre cuts (organised by various campaign groups and trade unions)

Meeting agreed that we should support this demonstration, as it is part of the same fight. Around a dozen present said they would be able to attend. People should meet at the 'Glasgow Against ATOS' banner in George Square and talk to people, try and involve them, distribute leaflets etc.

David is to contact Brian Smith, one of the lobby's organisers, to see if someone from Glasgow Against ATOS can speak at the demonstration

Friday 25 January, 12 – 2.30pm, meet outside ATOS on Cadogan Street

Next Glasgow Against ATOS picket of ATOS and rolling protest

Around a 6-7 people said they could attend – make sure we are contacting others and encouraging them to come along. Bring leaflets, banners, placards and your friends!

Jan to create Facebook event for the picket.

Wednesday 13 February, 7.30 – 9.30pm

Next Glasgow Against ATOS campaign meeting

Unite the Union offices, 'John Smith house', 145 -165 West Regent Street

Jack from Unite the Union has said that the union can offer a free meeting room to the campaign. Campaign agreed to take up this offer, saving us £30 for the usual room booking cost.

Joey to update general GAA leaflet with new dates and venues and will contact people to give them piles to take away once they are printed.

Jan to create Facebook event

- Jack also mentioned that Unite is putting together courses on dealing with ATOS tribunals, which are free to anyone to attend and get training. This is a good idea and potentially very useful. Jack to send on details.

Other ideas

- Andy I. to see about possibility of organising a protest outside ATOS in Ayr. People at the meeting supported this idea and said they would be able to take cars down to support any demonstration.

- Point was raised that the Commonwealth Games mascot has been getting a lot of press recently – we should think about an alternative mascot!

5. Propaganda and publicity

Leaflets

John raised the point that ATOS is going on the offensive in terms of shutting down any criticism of the company, getting disability rights blogs closed down etc. To this end we should be even more provocative in our (literary) attacks on the company and really stick the knife in them.

- John read out a very powerful new leaflet (3 pages) he has drafted, drawing the comparisons between the Nazi's treatment of oppressed groups and the disabled and their use of IT companies like IBM to organise their mass murder. One or two raised concerns about the comparison the but meeting agreed leaflet was excellent and should be produced. David Cameron recently used a quote in parliament about 'the red pest' lifted directly from Goebbels!
- John has offered to get 1000 of these printed. Only thing is to add glasgowagainstatos2012@gmail.com and <http://glasgowagainstatos.wordpress.com>

T-shirts

John has also produced amazing new ATOS kills t-shirts. There are 24 made, at £10 each, with money after costs going back to the campaign. Everyone and their pals should get one!

Reports and articles

Discussed that people need to be writing articles, letters and reports of the political work we are involved, personal experiences of ATOS and the campaign, interviewing people directly affected and asking them to write about their experiences. These can be uploaded to the blog and Facebook and make the campaign something living and breathing.

- Send articles, interviews etc. to glasgowagainstatos2012@gmail.com

Facebook and blog

Meeting thanked Jan for her excellent work on the Glasgow Against ATOS Facebook page, which very quickly has grown and is getting the word out to masses of people. To keep this up and continue creating Facebook events and distributing the information (and rage!)

Videos

Discussed the need to make a short film on the campaign. Jamie W has all the equipment and software to make a professional video for the campaign, based on footage of the protests and interviews with people. To let us know what support is needed for this to become a reality, as it would be very useful.

6. Fundraising

Point was raised that we need to continue raising money on the streets, asking for donations from other campaigns and trade unions with larger resources. Money shouldn't be coming only from campaign members' pockets. Collection buckets at last protest were effective.

Another £60 needs to be raised for David's costs for the new banner to be met

Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism! Paid for Avant Garde room hire = £30.00

Collection of £35.00 raised at meeting: to cover some of room cost, rest for general GAA campaign kitty

Glasgow Against ATOS meeting, 16 January 2013

Summary of action points and dates

Wednesday 23 January, 12 – 2.30pm

Lobby of Glasgow City Council to stop Learning Disability Day Centre cuts

GAA members to meet at George Square at the anti-ATOS banner

Friday 25 January, 12 – 2.30pm

Monthly picket of ATOS, Cadogan Street

Assemble at Cadogan Street for picket and rolling protest

Wednesday 13 February, 7.30 – 9.30pm

Monthly GAA campaign meeting

New venue: Unite offices, 145 West Regent St., city centre (disabled access)

Action points

Joey

- Update leaflet with new dates and get printing
- Upload Sunday Herald article to blog
- To add new people to contact lists and phone tree

David

- Find list of companies with ATOS contracts and email out
- Contact Brian Smith or another organiser of 23 January lobby of City Chambers and ask for campaign to have a speaker on the day

John

- Contact ECAP re: updates on ATOS benefit advice sheets
- Get new leaflet he drafted printed, adding campaign email and blog details
- Sell ATOS t-shirts!

Jan

- Keep GAA Facebook updated/create events for new dates

Frank

- Draft letter to send to trade unions asking them affiliate and donate to campaign
- Send on any poster designs

Jack

- Confirm room booking at Unite offices
- Send on details of Unite's ATOS tribunal training

GAA Meeting Minutes, 13/02/013

Chair: Jess Minute Taker: Dominic

Agenda

Talk from Joyce Drummond

Tasks Completed

Reports of protests and actions

Future Action

Campaign Finances (fundraising, treasurer role)

Talk from Joyce Drummond

Very honest, useful and inspiring talk from Joyce, a member of solidarity. She has sat on both sides of the Atos assessment desk and continues a determined fight to expose the work capability assessment. She labelled Atos 'disability tricksters' and said that behind every assessment question there's a hidden motive to prove the 'claimant' is fit for work (example – do you walk your dog, did you comb your own hair etc). She advised that everyone going through an assessment should have someone with them because it supports their case that they cannot cope with the level of independence required for work. Joyce and a contact of hers are currently planning to bring a case in the UN against the British Government for sanctioning this abuse of the human rights of sick and disabled people.

She gave some very useful information in terms of taking direct actions against the assessments which we will not circulate online but take into account. Joyce asked where the campaign is to go from here – how do we continue to build opposition? She has offered to share her knowledge with anyone who has questions or concerns about Atos assessments. She can be emailed on joyldrummond@aol.com

The campaign thanks her for her talk and time and looks forward to working with her in future.

Tasks Completed

- John contacted Edinburgh Coalition against poverty about updated Atos assessment advice sheets. They have an updated one on their website but it is quite complex so they said we maybe better producing our own. John has produced a 'who we are leaflet' as a first step. He should send this to the GAA email account. Jack to confirm to GAA email if Unite can print/photocopy copies of these for the 22nd Feb rolling picket? The ECAP advice sheet is available at - <http://edinburghagainstpoverity.org.uk/node/5>

- Jack took peoples names for Unite tribunal training. He is to arrange a day and time for this and contact everyone who left their name. Others who are interested but

didn't make it to tonight's meeting should contact him on jack.ferguson@unitetheunion.org Someone recommended visiting the 'don't go it alone' tribunal support facebook group. I could not find this group but found a 'Disability Tribunal Watch' facebook group (although it doesn't look like they are uploading much). Can Jan send them a message asking if they offer support for people attending tribunals in Glasgow. - <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Disability-Tribunals-Watch/166713746737161?ref=ts&fref=ts>

- David has sent a list of companies involved with Atos to Jack who is to send this on to the GAA email.

- Frank distributed letters appealing to trade unions for support. He is to send an update of replies he gets to the GAA email for circulation.

- Jan has created an Atos facebook event for the 22nd Feb rolling picket, starting 12.30pm at Atos centre, Cadogan Street. For anyone who cannot make it at this time there will be people stood outside the centre, between 12.30pm-2.30pm (if the weathers isn't too bad!) so your welcome down.

- John gave a report of his contact with the Public and Commercial Services Union (PCS) who have made statements against Atos while having members who work for Atos. Derek Thompson, **PCS** national executive committee member, failed to give our campaign support but John persevered and met with another PCS Glasgow representative Jas McGuinness (a PCS Union Rep for Atos workers in Glasgow) who originally was very reluctant to meet the campaign but eventually agreed. John asked for a formal meeting between our campaign and the PCS to take place. Jas passed John on to PCS Union Rep for DWP workers Alan Brown who has agreed to meet on Thursday 14th Feb, 2pm. **John, Frank, Jan, David and Dominic** will definitely be attending this. We will be meeting 1pm at the Unite offices and having a preparation meeting before meeting Alan. We will circulate a report of how it goes.

Reports of Actions

- Jan gave reportback on last months GAA rolling picket. Successful, despite poor weather, targeting the Sun newspaper offices, an RBS branch and the Commonwealth Games office.

- Sean gave a positive report of a direct action against Highland house and leafleting of Archie Grahams house. This received a good level of media coverage with a picture in the Daily Record. He is to write a report of these actions and send it GAA email for upload to the GAA blog.

- Dominic mentioned that people had went down to leaflet against Atos/Commonwealth Games promotion at Asda, Toryglen. We have to keep a look out for and target future Commonwealth games promotion events demanding they end the Atos sponsorship and provide a real legacy for the people of Glasgow – for example 15,000 fairly paid jobs to run the Games instead of ads for volunteers!

Future Actions/Ideas, Meetings and Dates

- Suggestion for the campaign to move from one meeting and action a month to two of each. People felt this was the best way to ensure the campaign remains organised and is stepped up (maybe one of these meetings could be public – for people coming into the campaign – and another for people already involved so we are not overwhelmed). Jess and Dominic will propose dates for these. Some people proposed that one picket starts at the Commonwealth Games office and the other at the Atos centre as a way of increasing pressure to cancel Atos sponsorship of the Games.

- A woman who came out an assessment on the day we were having a picket said it was very heartwarming to see people standing in solidarity with the sick and disabled as she was feeling very low at the time. She suggested we set up a campaign phone support line that people in Glasgow going through assessments can call for moral and political support. Money would need to be raised to buy a decent phone or pay for a landline and we would need volunteers (who have daytime/night time availability) to take this role up. As this idea depends on fundraising the campaign treasurers (John and David) should keep it in mind.

- Frank said that we should be taking a creative approach to future action. He mentioned that the history disability month was either October/November and we should use this to highlight our cause. He also mentioned people should make up home-made banners, placards, posters and other publicity material against Atos and get these out in their areas to raise awareness of the fightback.

- Some people pointed out that posters put up in the street have been taken down pronto by the people we are confronting and so its worth going round local shops, libraries and doctors/dentists/community centres putting up campaign posters and leaving wee piles of leaflets as these have more chance of getting to people.

- Sean mentioned that Atos will be discussed in the City Chambers on 21st February as councillor Billy McAllister is raising a debate, and that campaigners should go down to the public gallery for this. **Sean** is to confirm the time of the debate and if it is definitely on Thursday 21st February to the GAA email.

- Jack is to confirm to GAA email if the Unite union building can be booked for the next planned public campaign meeting Wednesday 13th March, 6.30-9pm?

Campaign Finances

- Ideas about contacting musicians and comedians etc to do benefit gigs for the campaign. Frank is to take a lead on this, delegating tasks to find venues etc to others. Joey should be able to help with this.

- John and David have agreed to be joint treasurers for the campaign. They are to look into getting an account with Co-op set up. Dominic will hand over any GAA money he has to John.

FINAL NOTE: We ran out of time and so didn't get to discuss some of the other issues (response to Daily Mail article linking Glasgow Against Atos to attacks on Atos doctors, response to letter in Metro newspaper 13th Feb supporting Atos..). A second campaign meeting a month will give us more time. Until this is booked we should aim for the next campaign meeting to start at 7pm and not 7.30pm.

Lastly big well done to Jess for volunteering and handling the difficult task of chairing!

If you have any questions/points about the minutes contact us at -

glasgowagainstatos2012@gmail.com or 07734348065

Also keep checking and emailing us your stories for the blogspot for –

<http://glasgowagainstatos.wordpress.com/>

Keep the heads up and voices loud and defiant!

Dominic

GAA Meeting Minutes, 28/02/013

Chair: Dominic

Minute Taker: Connor

Agenda

- MMA (Last meeting minutes and matters arising)
- Report back on meeting with the PCS
- Reportback on Fridays Picket – organisation, security and 'Glasgow Against Atos Two' defence campaign

(Agenda points added at meeting)

- Treasurer Report/fundraising
- Upcoming Actions and Meetings/relations to other campaigns
- Upcoming GAA events and meeting

MMA

Outstanding issue: Dominic and Joey are currently taking charge of checking and using the GAA email account. We are happy to continue with this but would like one more person to volunteer to help (we were thinking Frank?).

- Paul and John to deal with the type setting of the 'who we are' leaflet. Joey to prepare the leaflet done by Roisin for use.
- David sent on a list of companies involved with Atos. He is to try and find out how they are involved with these companies and circulate this info among GAA email contacts.
- Frank has sent a letter to trade unions asking for their support for the campaign. He has not had any response yet but is to continue pushing them on this. He is to circulate the letter of support to GAA email contacts (this can be done by adjusting the message title – eg. 'letter of support' - and selecting 'reply to all' in response to this email) so it can be circulated for other people to use.
- Jack is waiting on word back from the Unite union about dates for the tribunal training they offer.
- Jan reported the formation of an 'Aberdeen Against Atos'. She is to make contact with them – discussing how we can support each other (eg. have they got any public meetings/protests planned? GAA could send statements, speakers, to help attract attention to their campaign or some/one of them could come down to Glasgow). We can upload a statement of support for them after this is done.
- Sean and others took part in a sit in at the city chambers SNP motion debate on Atos, 21st February. They were all thrown out. He is to produce a public report of this and send it to the GAA email for upload to GAA blog.

Report of meeting with Public and Commercial Services union (PCS)

John reported to us what took place. Dominic to circulate John's report on the mail list. On the whole the meeting was fairly positive but there is some doubt over whether the PCS will give us what we requested; political and financial support. John and David are to work together on chasing them up (eg. on promises to find out if the PCS could affiliate and give money to the campaign etc.)

Last night we had a discussion around the wider issues of the Work Capability Assessment and PCS members, who work for Atos and the DWP, involvement with it. Agreed that Atos are only a cog in the works and that we need to start targeting the DWP as the orchestrators of the assessment. We must recognise that many contradictions exist within the working class; conflicting interests; and unite as many sections as possible against the cuts (by appealing to trade unions) but we cannot rely on this strategy

e. Whether the unions support us or not we will continue to build the campaign in our communities amongst the people who are being affected by all the cuts.

We agreed last night that Glasgow Against Atos has to stand against all cuts and give our support to the fight against the bedroom tax and welfare cutbacks in general (which are disproportionately affecting disabled people).

- Connor is to do a campaign statement promising GAA support for all resistance to cuts against the working class and poor; we are against all welfare cutbacks. This should include a line asking people, groups, campaigns, unions, to sign up in support of this statement. Connor is to circulate this around GAA email list and then work with others to send it out as widely as possible. Danny suggests that for the individuals, campaigns and groups who blatantly fail to respond to this statement - to name and shame them.

Reportback on Fridays Picket – organisation, security and 'Glasgow Against Atos Two' defence campaign

Dominic reported back on the day. We agreed we need to be better organised to be able to effectively oppose police harassment and ensure the campaign is built. From now on we will delegate roles (legal steward, photographer and video people, speakers for the megaphone, preparation of chants, people to collect donations for our campaign) and make concrete plans (the route of the picket) at the meeting before our end of monthly action. Our next picket is 29 March so we will agree roles/plans at our next meeting 13 March.

Both Danny and Dominic were arrested and charged. Danny with attempting to 'liberate a prisoner' and Dominic with using a megaphone and 'resisting arrest'. Both are frame ups and the meeting agreed that the police had been targeting Dominic from early on in the protest – as the person using the megaphone and known to police. They are both due in court on Friday 22 March and have been banned from taking part in protests or demonstrations within the city centre until then. We agreed last night that this was an attack on everyone's rights to protest and that we must win the battle against the police over this issue – or face the consequences of constant arrest and criminalisation.

- John and Paul to produce GAA campaign statement against the arrests and this is to include a line asking other groups, unions, campaigners to sign their names in support of the 'Glasgow Against Atos Two'. They are to circulate this publicly when completed.
- We agreed to hold a static rally, 'Drop the Charges! Support the Glasgow Against Atos Two! Defend the Right to protest!', Friday 8 March, 12.30-2.30pm, outside RBS on Gordon Street (where the arrests took place). It turns out that this is International women's day and there maybe various protests taking place that day with some campaign members not able to make our rally. An alternative is that we hold our rally Thursday 7 March, same time and place. **People to respond to this email asap if they support changing the date to Thursday. We need to assign roles for this event in coming days; who will be organising the megaphone (introducing the event and speakers), legal steward to deal with cops, collecting donations, talking photos and film footage of speakers?**
- Jan to do GAA facebook events for both the rally and court protest after Dominic confirms the details.

Treasurer Report/fundraising

John and David are the treasurers. John gave a report of what we had –around £40- and stressed that we needed to raise funds. A collection was made at the end of last night's meeting.

Agreed that we must have collection cans and buckets (with tops covered) out on all future GAA events asking people (especially those taking part in the event) if they can afford a donation. David and Paul are each to bring two collection cans to our Defend the right to protest rally.

- John and David, as treasurers, are to take charge of fundraising at the rally which will be donations towards the cost of potential court fines. They are to request support from two other people.
- Joey and Frank are to work on organising a benefit gig with the help of Kenny's contacts. To report any development at next meeting.
- Paul to work on raising funds for Glasgow Defence Campaign bust cards which can be used on GAA events.

Future Actions and Meetings/relations to other campaigns

- Sean leading a direct action, assemble Wednesday 6 March, 10.30am at Fireman's Statue, Outside central hotel at central station. He is to do a public report of this for the GAA blog. Campaign members to attend if they can.
- Jan speaking on behalf of our campaign at the Saturday 9 March 'Unite the Resistance' meeting (campaign initiated by the socialist workers party). She is to make clear that our campaign is against all welfare cuts – not just about Atos- and call for people to support the campaign (by announcing the details of upcoming court protests and rolling pickets).
- Dominic to email the organisers of the 'Axe the Bedroom Tax' March and Rally, Saturday 30 March, 12noon, George Square, for a Glasgow Against Atos speaker to be included on the platform. Proposal for Helen, Jan or someone else to speak for the campaign.

Upcoming GAA events

- 'Drop the Charges! Support the Glasgow Against Atos Two! Defend the Right to protest!' Rally, either Thursday/Friday 7/8th March. To be confirmed this weekend.
- Next Glasgow Against Atos Campaign Meeting, Wednesday 13 March, 7-9pm, Unite Union Offices, 145-65 West Regent Street, City Centre (disabled access)
- Sheriff Court Protest, Friday 22 March, 'Drop the Charges! Support the Glasgow Against Atos Two!', 11am-12noon (this times to be confirmed).

If anything is unclear get back to me. Remember people need to reply if Thursday 7 March instead of Friday is good for our defend the right to protest rally. I will send out confirmation of rally details on Sunday once people have got back to me.

'You Can Jail the Revolutionary, But You Can't Jail the Revolution' ...

Black Panther Party

All best,

Dominic

Wednesday 13 March, 7 - 9pm @ Unite offices, West Regent Street
Glasgow Against ATOS organising meeting

Proposed agenda points

Confirm and suggest further points with meeting chairperson

1. Minutes and Matters Arising from last meeting
2. Reports of actions (ATOS occupation, 'Drop the Charges' protest, Unite the Resistance conference)
3. Glasgow Against ATOS blog
4. Glasgow Against ATOS 2 defence campaign
5. Upcoming actions - publicity and organisation
 - Thursday 21 March GAA 2 protest
 - Friday 22 March GAA 2 court date
 - Friday 29 March GAA picket
 - Saturday 30 March, Bedroom Tax demonstration
6. Future dates/actions/meetings
7. Publicity and fundraising: posters, badges, leaflets, benefit night

Confirm and suggest further points with meeting chairperson

Glasgow Against ATOS organising meeting, Thursday 18 March 2013

Chair: Jan

Minutes: Joey

1. Minutes and Matters from previous meetings

Joey:

- to prepare and print Roisin's ATOS leaflets
- send out and upload to blog Frank's letter to the trade unions

John C:

- preparing a 'Who we are leaflet' in time for picket at end of month (work with Paul to help design format)

Jack F:

- to follow-up on Unite tribunal training day

Connor:

- still to produce GAA statement against all cuts as discussed at previous meeting

Public reports of actions needed for GAA blog. This is key to publicise our campaigning work and to let others know what action is taking place against ATOS.

Ian M: write reports of anti-ATOS actions on 21 February and 6 March. Send to Joey so he can upload to blog

Kenny: write-up report of Free Speech rally on 7 March for the blog

2. Reports

Anti-ATOS actions and events in the last month:

- Peaceful occupation of ATOS offices on 6 March

Successful occupation of offices by Citizens United and others. Were inside offices on Gordon Street. No arrests were made. Article published on GDC blog about police attempts to divide the campaign here:

<http://glasgowdefencecampaign.blogspot.co.uk/2013/03/strathclyde-police-attempt-to-divide.html>

- Rally in support of two arrested campaign members on 7 March

Successful static protest calling for charges to be dropped against two FRFI members arrested on February ATOS picket. Up to 50 people present and a good response from the public. Police kept their distance – we were better organised with police liaison and specific roles.

<http://glasgowdefencecampaign.blogspot.co.uk/2013/03/free-speech-rally-in-glasgow-drop.html>

* Need to have someone in charge of collections/donations specifically. Ask Paul to clarify the law regarding street collections

- GAA speaker at Unite the Resistance conference on 9 March

Jan spoke well for the GAA at Unite the Resistance conference. Conference passed official support for anti-ATOS activity in Glasgow, but did not name Glasgow Against ATOS or include any specific dates for the upcoming protests.

Jan to contact via Facebook to get them to acknowledge the campaign.

3. Upcoming dates

Monday 18 March, meet at Fireman's statue

Direct action being organised, contact Sean

Thursday 21 March, 12.30 – 2pm @ RBS on Gordon Street

Free speech demo – Round 2: Drop the charges now!

FRFI members had proposed doing a stall/static demonstration at the same place as the protest on 7 March. John C and others raised concerns that if there was not enough of a turn-out, FRFI members could be left vulnerable to arrest, and to focus on Friday's court appearance.

Joey to take these concerns back to FRFI.

Friday 22 March, meet 11am @ Sheriff Court

Protest outside trial of Glasgow Against ATOS 2.

This is an important demo – we need as many as possible to make it along!

The police will be looking to potentially disrupt any solidarity both outside and inside the court room, so we need to be organised and disciplined.

Proposed roles on the day

- Joey: Police liaison
- Paul: Leaflets/banners/material
- Mihal: Photos
- Sean: Press release
- Danny: Contact Daily Record journalist

Wednesday 27 March, 7 – 9pm @ Unite offices (Joey to confirm booking with JF)

GAA organising meeting, focussing on end of month picket and the Bedroom Tax march

- Need to ensure the date is publicised early to give people time to attend

Friday 29 March, meet 12.30pm @ ATOS centre, Cadogan Street

Monthly Glasgow Against ATOS rolling picket!

- Can finalise roles + route beforehand and at organising meeting
- Need to decide how we want to organise people remaining (or not) at Cadogan Street throughout

Saturday 30 March, anti-Bedroom Tax demo. Details still being finalised.

Major national demonstration against the Bedroom Tax.

- Propose Glasgow Against ATOS has a contingent on the march.

- Both Jan and Dominic have contacted the organiser – Alan Wylie – for GAA to have a speaker but no response as yet.

4. Any other business

Kenny and Joey are organising a fundraiser for the campaign and for any court fines, with Stereo bar booked for Thursday 2 May along with three excellent bands. To keep the campaign updated on progress – need to organise publicity.

Treasurer's report: we have £77.52 in the campaign funds at the moment, although money is still owed to David C for the banner.

Matters Arising

Joey to meet roshin regarding leaflets tomorrow (26th)
John cooper has produced a 'who are we' leaflet for picket and demo
Jack ferguson, training day, not much progress
David to contact jack regarding this
Connor has produced GAA statement

Fundraising

Mihall said the signs made so far dont have to be paid for but any future signs will come out the funds
David to get money for banner from john cooper

Reports

Paul reported on right to protest demos,
good demo outside court, 20-30 people, paul thought dominic and dannys case was seen first because we were visible outside court and this had been noticed,
bail conditions were lifted and trial date is 25th july

Pickets

Importance of security and mihall asked about collections tins not being used on demos, lan discussed the legalities of this
Having different speakers on megaphone is needed
Linda said as many people as possible should video the pickets
David said he would bring a video camera
Joey thinks we should change the rout, mihall thought it best if we march on argyle st
David thinks Post office should be picketed but maybe next month
possible route, cadogan st, st vincent st, buchanan st, argyle street
Mihall frustated about timekeeping, can we all meet prompt at 12.30
John to liase with police, linda to do it if he cant manage the march

Repulican Flags on GAA pickets

The presence of republican flags was debated and most of those at the meeting thought they boys should not bring their flags to pickets, Mihall had overheard negative comments during the demos and said people he knew had said they wouldnt get involved due to the presence of flags, john also thought we shouldnt be shouldnt sell frfi paper on pickets and try to make it less political, thinks it could affect the popularity/growth of campaign, Sean support their right to protest but didnt think they should bring the flags, david agreed, Dominic, joey and paul disagreed, felt it was censorship? Linda was undecided and it was decided that mihall and dom will speak to the guys about it

BT Demo

organisation has been a bit of a shambles, connor attended a Federation meeting but was told it was a committee meeting and the public could only observe, the committee discussed cutting down on speakers and removing GAA from the list, which connor opposed from the floor and was shouted down

I (jan) asked on fb if our members thought it was fair that we were being excluded which produced a thread with nearly 400 comments that were supportive of us speaking at demo

Following this post of fb GAA the decision was reversed

Joey said we need to sort a speaker out for bt demo, most at meeting were in agreement that danny would be a suitable candidate as he is running bt group in hamilton and has been arrested on GAA picket

Joey asked if everyone can meet at the needle in glasgow green at 11.15 to get organised

Dominic has prepared a leaflet for demo

John cooper has also made 400 leaflets

David mentioned that weather will be bad and to be

General discussion

sean and ian said they will contact sarah glynn regarding press releases about our actions

sean spoke about his action at the yes campaign office and plans for a further action on 17th april to be discussed at next meeting

dominic asked ian to do reports of any future actions on the GAA blog

Glasgow Against ATOS organising meeting**Minutes**

Chair: Jess
 Minutes: Joey

1. GAA monthly picket – Friday 26 April

Roles:

- Marion will stay at Cadogan Street
- Mihall on camera
- Kenny will be police liaison
- Jess to write a public report after for blog

Route:

- Cadogan Street at 12.30pm
- Post Office
- Buchanan Street
- Argyle Street
- Commonwealth Games office on Albion Street

Joey and Paul to update and print leaflets; John C to bring his batches of leaflets

Paul to organise printing of more ATOS advice sheets

As many people as possible should prepare things for the megaphone and be willing to speak

2. Reports and blogs

The campaign still needs to get on top of writing up public reports of our activities, original articles and interviews etc. which we can post on the blog and use to publicise what we are doing. Joey can edit and upload things to the blog without too much difficulty – but we need people to write things up to accompany all the excellent photographs we have!

- Joey to email out messages of support GAA has received from people down south and post on blog
- Jess to do a report of the April picket
- John C and Marion to try and get some interviews with claimants going through ATOS assessments
- John C to email Joey pictures of the merchandise to put on the blog
- Joey to upload PDFs of petitions and leaflets which others can download from blog

Frank mentioned a site – Poets Against ATOS – which it is worth checking out

3. Fundraiser and treasurer's report

Joey and Kenny gave a report on progress with the fundraiser on Thursday 2 May

John C gave treasurer's report:

- a treasurer's account has been established with the Co-Op bank
- GAA funds at £27.02
- GAA 2 defence fund at £30.41
- the current batch of GAA t-shirts raise £3 for the campaign but next run the full profit will go to the campaign, so we should do this when funds become available
- the GAA banner cost has now been covered

*Proposal for a 'finance group' of three or four people to be set-up for the campaign, especially in wake of the fundraiser when their will be money available for developing things.

4. Proposals for future campaign work

Danny raised the prospect of the campaign aiming for a big event in the next couple of months such as a march to galvanise the campaign as a whole, link with other struggles and raise our profile. Agreed that this is a positive idea – to have a larger scale event – and people should bring proposals to next meeting.

Frank D proposal:

'Glasgow's dirty washing' – event at Glasgow Green washing lines – exposing Glasgow's 'dirty washing': from ATOS to Accord Centre, Emirates, Commonwealth Games, day centre closures, Council corruption etc. Co-ordinate with other groups – Accord, Committee of 100, day centre campaign, bedroom tax – to build for a big event with media presence also.

Frank to bring a written proposal to the next GAA meeting for agreement

Other ideas raised included actions around the Velodrome, looking at list of upcoming events and 'celebrity' engagements; also consider targeting the Better Together campaign.

'Dundee Against ATOS':

Fight Racism! Fight Imperialism! have members in Dundee who are willing to start anti-ATOS work in the city and possibly a regular Dundee Against ATOS campaign. David C previously organised there and Sean also has contact there who could help, and also Sarah Glynn.

Glasgow Against ATOS supports this initiative and will support and publicise as much as possible.

5. Reports

On 23 April, there was a 90 minute occupation of ATOS building on Cadogan Street; G4S security were very hostile and aggressive towards the activists; the press were present but didn't seem to be any coverage. Nonetheless, an excellent action – and importantly, very good support from people who were going through the assessments.

* We need a report of this! Sean C to ask Ian M where we stand with reports of all the direct actions which have happened.

Discussion around the need to really start targeting ATOS on a regular basis, increase the disruption, use of peaceful direct action – with the proviso that we are sensitive to those who may be vulnerable and getting those facing the WCAs on board. Should discuss further at next meeting.

6. All-Scotland Anti-Bedroom Tax Conference

Glasgow Against ATOS will have a stall at the conference on Saturday. Stall will cost £10 which the campaign should cover the cost of (Frank objected to the conferencing introducing this cost). John C will set-up with t-shirts and other merchandise.

GAA will have three delegates with voting rights.

Meeting discussed what the campaign should be raising at the conference: that the different struggles taking place should not be compartmentalised, we are all in this together – it is class war and we are all affected. Should try and raise motions for the Bedroom Tax Federation to support the monthly pickets and also explicit support for the Glasgow Against ATOS 2 defence campaign.

David C raised the idea to get contact details for all the various local anti-bedroom tax groups and write to them individually, offering our support to all vulnerable people and providing solidarity where we can.

7. AOB

John C raised an important point about doctors and health surgeries now starting to refuse to provide supporting letters to those set to face ATOS assessments and charging extortionate prices. People should raise this with their local doctors.

- John C to prepare a standard letter or a clear set of questions which people can raise

Glasgow Against Atos Organising Meeting, Minutes: Thursday 9th. May 2013.

In attendance: David Churchley, Frank Doyle, Sean Clerkin, John Cooper Snr. John Cooper Jnr. Janice Dick, Connor O'Hara, James Nesbitt, Michael Quinn, Peter Mc D. Scott Adams.

Marion and John were to report back with any interviews they got from people leaving Cadogan Street, but not had any luck so far.

John will get pictures of T Shirts so they can be uploaded to the blog.

Fundraiser total was £978.00 (Jan gave £10 that was owed), John has banked the money.

It was decided that there should be a finance group to deal with money from fundraiser, John and David agreed to be in the finance group, Jan has declined. John asked if we can send a letter of thanks to all the bands from GAA, Joey and Kenny will do this.

Glasgow Day Centre Carers are having a lobby of the Enable offices on Monday, 13th may, we all agreed we should support the lobby in solidarity with the carers. Jan will make an event on face book for this.

John spoke of the Kinning Park Complex which is under threat. It is a valuable community resource and they have been told to be out by the 27th May. They are planning to occupy the building and any support would be welcome

Frank spoke about the All Scotland Bedroom Tax Conference that took place on the 30th march, said it was good and well attended and he has been chosen as a delegate on the federation. Speakers included Sandra Whyte and Tommy Gorman.

Peter McD spoke of the recruitment agency SJB, who he says are "Atos in disguise" they work on behalf of Atos by recruiting nurses for assessment jobs, he said he has been going round hospitals in Glasgow putting up anti Atos leaflets on the nursing boards. He said he will keep us updated on this.

Dirty Laundry Event

Frank has proposed a protest in Glasgow Green, where we hang the councils "dirty laundry" out in public. We agreed this was a good idea and that we should plan it well, and try and promote it as widely as possible to make it a big event, perhaps set up a working group, James Nisbett said he could speak to Jack Ferguson about funds to promote the event. Frank has spoke to other groups who say they would support the protest.

Velodrome Action

Sean has proposed an action at the Velodrome on Monday 27th May, he thinks we should all meet up in town and get taxis to Velodrome, there was some

disagreement about using funds to pay for transport in taxis, and this will be discussed further at next meeting. He also spoke of his occupation of the Vote No offices; they never managed to get in as they were blocked from entering but did their protest outside the building

Mihall spoke about the possibility of making/buying a prop coffin for protests. Frank says you can get real coffins from the co op funeral directors as they use disposable coffins to transport repatriated bodies, Sean thinks we should do a Chinese lantern release in George Square for Atos victims.

Next Organising meeting:
Wednesday 29th. May 2013. 7pm. – 9pm.
Unite building: 145-165 West Regent Street, Glasgow G2 4RZ

It was decided that there should be a finance group to deal with money items. Treasurer, John and David agreed to be in the finance group. Ian has declined. John asked if we can send a letter of thanks to all the bands from GAA. John and Kenny will do this.

Glasgow Day Centre Centre are having a lobby of the Finance office on Monday. 7.30m. We should support the lobby in solidarity with the centre. John will make an event on that day for this.

John spoke of the Kilming Hall Complex which is under threat. It is a valuable community resource and they have been told to be out by the 31st May. They are planning to occupy the building and any support would be welcome.

Frank spoke about the 24 Scotland Bedroom Tax Conference that took place on the 24th March. It was good and well attended and he has been chosen as a delegate on the delegation. Speakers included Gordon Wylie and Tommy Gorman.

Peter McD spoke of the recruitment agency SLS, who he says are "like in disguise". They work on behalf of Atos by recruiting nurses for assessment jobs. He said he has been going round hospitals in Glasgow putting up with Atos leaflets on the nursing boards. He said he will keep us updated on this.

Only 1 Sunday Event

Frank has proposed a protest in Glasgow Overhead we have the council's "only protest" but in public. We agreed this was a good idea and that we should plan it well and try and promote it as widely as possible to make it a big event. Perhaps set up a working group.

James McNeil said he could speak to Jack Ferguson about funds to promote the protest. Frank said he would contact James and Jack about the protest.

Next GAA meeting 1 August and reports of action

Inbox | x

Glasgow AgainstATOS12:55 (4 hours ago)

to Amalie, Amandla, Andy, Ann, Ann, Anna, Anthony, Chris, Connor, Danny, David, Dominic, Dougie, Emmet, Eric, Frank, Frank, Glenn, Helen, Iain, Irene, Jack, Jacqueline, Jamie, Jan

Hi everyone,

The next Glasgow Against Atos campaign (GAA) meeting will take place this **Thursday 1 August, 7-9pm in the Unite Union building, 145/165 West Regent Street, Glasgow G2 4RZ**. This special general meeting will focus on and aim to implement points agreed from the last meeting on 18 July which are pasted at the bottom of this email.

Since the last GAA meeting the campaign has supported and mobilised its members for two pickets and also held a banner making workshop on 24 July to prepare material for our 3 August event (see below).

On 25 July members of GAA and the Glasgow Defence Campaign gathered to support the Glasgow Against Atos 2 on trial. The trial was put back to 1 October. The work to oppose these political charges will continue. See a GDC report of their appearance here - <http://glasgowdefencecampaign.blogspot.co.uk/2013/07/the-glasgow-against-atos-2-on-trial.html>

The campaign also held a successful end of month picket of the Atos centre on Friday. A blog report has been uploaded. See <http://glasgowagainstatos.wordpress.com/2013/07/27/glasgow-against-atos-picket-for-eleanor-tatton-26-july/>

Our next protest will take place this coming Saturday

Glasgow City Council Hang Out Your Dirty Laundry Event: Saturday 3 August, 11am assemble, Outside Peoples Palace, Glasgow Green. If possible bring 'dirty laundry'(paint sheets, t shirts, big underpants, anything you can paint a message on and bring it down) on the day for all Glasgow to see.

We are planning new protest and actions in the coming month. The more ideas the

better!

If you are unable to make it to the meeting email or call us with these ideas

Email - glasgowagainstatos2012@gmail.com

Number – 07734348065

The fight goes on!

cheers,

Dominic

Points agreed at last meeting

- 1) The meeting resolved to maintain the campaigns open and democratic methods of organisation as set out in the GAA constitution.
- 2) The meeting agreed to mobilise support for a protest outside Glasgow Sheriff Court on the morning of Danny and Dominic's trial (The Glasgow Against Atos 2). A picket will be held outside the court 9.15-10am, on Thursday 25 July.
- 3) A special general meeting of GAA is to be held by the campaign to elect office bearers to ensure democratic accountability.
- 4) David Churchly is to meet with Jan regarding her suitability for the role of GAA facebook moderator. The meeting agreed that the GAA Facebook page should not be a personal outlet but a campaign page which is reflective of the campaigns feelings and opinions as a whole.

Glasgow Against Atos Organising Meeting

Thursday, 8th August, 2013, 7-9pm

In attendance: Mihall, Robert, Linda, Maureen, John McA, Senga, John C, Keith, Ian, David A, Jan, Jack Ferguson (unite) Bernie?

Agenda: Treasurer Report, Dirty Laundry, Job Centre Picket, Support Groups, Future Plans

Meeting:

John (treasurer) distributed spreadsheets which had details of all monies in and out the GAA account. He gave us a summary of how the money has been used, frfi aquired half of our fundraiser money (almost £1000) and we provided £150 for the hire of a minibus to transport those attending the direct action organised by sean clerkin which left only £350 for GAA. Mihall made new placards which cost £70, the remaining amount was used for the dirty laundry event, that came to nearly £200 over budget which john has kindly donated from his own money.

So our account at the time of meeting was nil. However we collected £92 in donations and badge selling at dirty laundry event and Ian donated £30 during the meeting. John will hold the money until either david churchley steps down as signatory of GAA account or we set up a new account with john and a new signatory, Ian said it was important that this is sorted out by the next meeting (it was decided that mihall should be the other signatory if we set up a new account) Ian has offered to sell his CD at events and donate the money to GAA

Discussed the GAA blog that reported on the dirty laundry event, how it seemed like frfi had organised and managed the event, in actual fact they had no input at all, all the organising and work had been done by GAA regulars, who were during this time refusing to work with them. We discussed if david churchley can still be involved in our organising meetings if he is continuing to work with frfi and mihall not happy that his name is on our bank account and if this could mean frfi get access to our funds AGAIN! John C said he would be happy to open a new account if we dont get the signatory issue resolved.

The FRFI conflict was discussed in detail for those present who didnt know all the events leading up to and causing the split between frfi members and non frfi members of GAA. Jack

asked if frfi have been using the unite building to hold meetings in the name of GAA. John C and John McA discussed the night they hurriedly called for a vote whether they should get half the fundraiser cash, and how a vote should never have been taken as people weren't aware of the deceptions and how they even misled kenny who produced the entire event. Ian said that in future any decisions about money should not be rushed through and anything over £100 should go to a vote.

David discussed the walkout at the last meeting with FRFI, where most of GAA walked out and declared they would no longer work with frfi. He also said it's difficult to move the campaign forward whilst dealing with frfi issues. Ian says we should make a policy document. John C spoke of how frfi constantly tried to recruit people into frfi from GAA.

Maureen discussed the idea of having a paypal donation button on our page, not sure if she thinks we have a website, we only have the fb page at the moment. She also thought the info sheets were a good idea for those going into cadogan st, keith says he has sent jan a message with helpsheets, jan will try and get some printed up. Keith thinks 3 people should work together and write up a code of conduct. Robert, Linda, Senga?

Jack Ferguson (unite community leader) says he recognises that we (those present at meeting and other regulars who are non frfi) are the legitimate GAA, he said that unite only support grass roots community campaigns not those who serve the agenda of a political group or party.

John McAuley discussed the possibility of GAA attending glasgow pride at glasgow green on 10th august, john, senga, linda and robert agreed to go down, robert will bring the banner, and they will hand out leaflets and collect donations. Possibly sell t-shirts if john C can arrange to bring them. Jack offered to get leaflets printed at short notice so we have enough for pride. Keith said he would contact LGBT community and let them know we will be there.

End of meeting.